

Home grown

Duxbury artist and graphic designer opens local gallery featuring a variety of artists

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DUXBURY – HomeGrown Arts and Crafts isn't the kind of art gallery that features the work of artists who drop off their art and then head home to wait to hear whether it's sold.

The artists who have their work on display like to share a cup of coffee and talk about their art, from the techniques they use to their next challenge.

"We're all excited about getting together and working together," owner and artist Lisa Mackin said. "We want to sell our art, but it's also about the experience."

All but one of the 13 featured artists leasing space in the store and studio at 285 Saint George St., open since August, are local

to the South Shore. Mackin selects each artist, requiring both background and five photographs of their work so there's little duplication of art mediums.

A graphic designer and web developer, Mackin and her husband have lived in Duxbury for about 15 years, raising three children, all girls, ages 12, 16 and 19. Formerly assistant director at the Duxbury Art Association, she also owns Boston Baked Beads, a polymer clay artisan jewelry business she started three years ago, and creates scratchboard fine art.

Mackin credits her exposure to the local fine art scene for inspiring her own art and contemplating starting a new business. She had been seriously considering opening her own gallery



HomeGrown Arts and Crafts owner Lisa Mackin describes her scratchboard technique. STAFF PHOTO/KATHRYN KOCH

and boutique for about two years as the economy started affecting the field of graphic design, and she waited to find the perfect spot.

She has found that in a cozy space with lots of natural light and in which she has room to work and hold art classes for different age groups of about eight students. Experience isn't necessary either. She also likes the location's close proximity to the schools.

With her HomeGrown Daily blog, Mackin reaches out daily to the community at large and artists in particular to talk art. She wants her readers to enjoy everything art.

Mackin said she wants all the artists to have a good feeling about the gallery and want to visit regularly. She plans to hold regular gatherings and possibly special gatherings on a quarterly basis.

"It's a great place for all of us artists to get together and get our work out," she said.

Sally Dean, a Marshfield artist who works in watercolor, oil, acrylics, mixed media and 3-D art while writing a daily blog called Sally Dean 365 Flowers, said she most enjoys the camaraderie among the artists.

The education coordinator at the Art Complex Museum, Dean said it's wonderful to network and share ideas at HomeGrown Arts and Crafts.

"I come in here, and I just get inspired," she said.

The work of Duxbury's Betsey Borden may be familiar to customers of the Snowy Owl shop, which once occupied the space. The former Snowy Owl owner, Borden creates tapestry-style Nantucket Baskets, botanical watercolor prints and Plaster of Paris starfish casts.

Most of the artists do custom work, but commissions are welcome. The featured artists also include Liza Abelson of Plymouth, owner of Dasken Designs in Abington, stained glass artist; Duxbury watercolorist and oil painter Margaret Curran, art director at DaVinci Design in Plymouth; Hull watercolorist, oil and acrylic painter Marianne

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Buckley Curran, South Shore Charter School art teacher and owner of localecolor.com; Duxbury's Hilary Gately, textile artist and owner of H2Sew.com, who creates throw pillows and handmade cloth bags; and Hingham photographer Susan Hagstrom.

Other featured artists are Plymouth fiber artist Linda Mackey, who makes hand-dyed silk scarves and does felting paintings; Grafton resident Laurie Tonelli, owner of Fresh Paint Studio, who specializes in turning vintage furniture into heirlooms; Marshfield resident Markie Mello, who creates wrap bracelets combining leather, ball chain and vintage buttons; Marshfield watercolorist and oil painter Mary Sheehan Winn, who contributes to her own daily blog, Just Painting; and South Shore Baby Knits, a collective of older South Shore residents knitting baby gear by hand under the same label.

The regular business hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. HomeGrown is also open by appointment and whenever Mackin has the "open" sign outside.



Marshfield artist Sally Dean, education coordinator at the Art Complex Museum, has been selected as one of the featured artists at HomeGrown Arts and Crafts.



Former Snowy Owl owner Betsey Borden also has her art featured at HomeGrown Arts and Crafts in Duxbury.



A variety of arts and crafts from various local artists are for sale at HomeGrown Arts and Crafts at 285 Saint George St. in Duxbury.